

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-20 ACDA-19 OMB-01 RSR-01

/172 W

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R 011156Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5293

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA JURIQ

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

UNCLAS BANGKOK 11852

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, SEATO, PFOR, AS, TH, RP

SUBJ: SEATO: BANGKOK PRESS REPORTS AUSTRALIAN

PM WHITLAM'S COMMENTS

CINCPAC ALSO PASS POLAD

1. BANGKOK WORLD JULY 31 RAN SEVEN-COLUMN FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE
HEADED, "WHITLAM CALLS ON THAILAND TO RECOGNIZE PEKING."

WASHINGTON-DATELINED STORY CULLED FROM VARIOUS WIRE
SERVICES REPORTED THAT WHITLAM "STRONGLY URGED THAILAND
AND THE PHILIPPINES TO GRANT DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION TO
PEKING" IN A STATEMENT FOLLOWING A SPEECH BEFORE THE
NATIONAL PRESS CLUB JULY 30. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE,
WHITLAM SAID THAT SEATO "CERTAINLY HAS SOME SHORT-
COMINGS" WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED TO EFFORTS TO CONTAIN THE
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PRC, "A POLICY WHICH HAS NOW BEEN RESERSED." NOTING

THAT OF ALL THE SEATO MEMBERS, ONLY THAILAND AND PHILIPPINES DID NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PEKING OR A LIAISON OFFICE THERE, HE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING, "THERE MUST BE A CHANGE IN ATTITUDE BY SOME MEMBER GOVERNMENTS OF SEATO BEFORE IT CAN HAVE A CONSTRUCTIVE LIFE. THAILAND AND THE PHILIPPINES STILL RECOGNIZE TAIPEI. CLEARLY THEY NEED TO BE NUDGED TO A REALISTIC SITUATION."

2. ARTICLE REPORTED THAT WHITLAM URGED CREATION OF A LOOSE REGIONAL ORGANIZATION, PATTERNED AFTER COMMONWEALTH OR OAS, THAT WOULD ALLOW WESTERN PACIFIC NATIONS TO CONSULT ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST WHILE REMAINING OUTSIDE MILITARY AND POLITICAL ALLIANCES. WHITLAM REPORTEDLY CONSIDERED THAT PRC MEMBERSHIP IN SUCH A GROUPING WOULD BE ASSENTIAL. STORY ALSO STATED THAT PRESIDENT AND WHITLAM HAD AFFIRMED THEIR CONTINUING ATTACHMENTS TO ANZUS AND SEATO TREATIES.

3. BANGKOK POST AUGUST 1 CARRIED AFP STORY FROM CANBERRA REPORTING THAT GOA OPPOSITION LEADER SNEDDEN HAD ACCUSED WHITLAM OF OFFENDING THAILAND AND PHILIPPINES IN HIS URGING THEM TO RECOGNIZE PEKING. ARTICLE QUOTED SNEDDEN AS SAYING, "THE PRIME MINISTER HAS NOT SAID ANYTHING NEW ABOUT SEATO, BUT HAS SAID IT IN A WAY CALCULATED TO OFFEND OUR ASIAN FRIENDS," AND ALSO CLAIMING THAT WHITLAM'S STATEMENTS HAD EMBARRASSED THE USG. SNEDDEN WAS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT SEATO CAN FULLFILL A WIDER ROLE AS A REGIONAL BODY ON MATTERS OTHER THAN DEFENSE.

4. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING TEXT OF ANY OF WHITLAM'S NATIONAL PRESS CLUB REMARKS RE SEATO. UNGER

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